

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Mt. Juliet City Commissioner, District 4

Both our chickadees and bluebirds have fledged. Congratulations to all graduates from kindergarten to college. Some dates in June are: D-Day June 6, Women Veterans Day June 12, US Army Birthday June 14, Flag Day June 14, Father's Day June 16, National American Bald Eagle Day June 20, First day of summer June 20, National American Flag Week June 9-15, and National Men's Health Awareness Month. Happy summer everyone.

NEW BUSINESSES:

Whataburger at the corner of NMJRD and Lebanon Road is projected to open around June 24th.

Sanika's Indian Cuisine, located at 12800 Lebanon Road, is expected to open around mid-late June.

Overstock Outlet is now open at 126 Belinda Pkwy. (formerly The Yard Sale Store).

UPCOMING

1) WWMS Ribbon Cutting: The public is invited to join the ribbon cutting for new West Wilson Middle School on Sunday, June 2nd at 2 pm. WWMS is located at 935 NMJRD.

2) Costco Wholesale (repeat/update): Costco has set a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for June 6th at 7:30 am. They are located off Golden Bear Gateway at 100 Legacy Pointe Blvd. All are welcome.

3) Food truck Thursdays (repeat/update): Each Thursday in June (6, 13, 20, 27), Food Truck Thursdays continue through October in Charlie Daniels Park from 4-7:30 pm. Bring the family for dinner and support these businesses each week.

4) The Peach Truck: The Peach Truck will be in MJ at two pickup locations beginning in June. To preorder and see all upcoming dates with prices, you can [click here](#).

- On Thursdays, beginning June 6th at Tractor Supply Company (14925 Lebanon Road).
- On Sundays, beginning June 9th at Providence Marketplace (401 SMJRD) from 3-6 pm.

5) Movie in the Park: Beginning Friday, June 7th, the Movie in the Park events start back once each month (Fridays) through October. Bring the family for these free movies, along with a blanket/chairs, in Charlie Daniels Park at the amphitheater that begins at sunset. The movie on June 7th will be Back to the Future and concessions will be available. For questions, please call 615-758-6522.

6) Dinner in the Vines (repeat/update): Experience a taste of Italy right here in MJ on Saturday, June 8th from 7-10 pm in MJ's only private vineyard located at 555 Pleasant Grove Road. This is a fundraising event to benefit The Joe Beretta Foundation, which is a local organization dedicated to meeting practical needs of advanced heart failure patients and their families. The event includes d'oeuvres, dinner, live music, silent auction, and a wine pull. Tickets can be [purchased here](#).

7) WC Election Institute: This free opportunity is provided by the Wilson County Election Commission designed to give citizens an inside look at how they prepare for elections. You will gain knowledge on Voter Registration, Ballot and Machine preparations, Candidate Information and the importance of Poll Workers, the Media and Community Outreach. You will learn how all of these functions are interrelated and how much detail is required when preparing and conducting elections. Having confidence in our county election process is important. The Wilson County Election Institute will be on Saturday, June 15th, from 8:30 am - 3 pm and include a lunch break. The location is 230 E. Gay Street in Lebanon. The class is limited so sign up today. For more details or to sign up for the class, you can [click here](#).

8) BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee)

(repeat/update): The [MJ Annual Community Greenway Walk](#) is scheduled for Thursday, June 27th at 6 pm. We will meet at the Hamilton-Denson Parking lot and walk east along the Town Center Trail to NMJRD and visit Jeremiah's Italian Ice or Dunkin Donuts, then return to Hamilton-Denson Park. Hamilton-Denson Park is located off W. Division Street on Tate Lane. The rainout date is scheduled for July 11th.

9) MJ Spring Yard Sale (repeat/update): The MJ Spring Yard Sale has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 15th from 8 am - 12 pm in Charlie Daniels Park Field #2. If you would like to reserve a vendor spot for \$20, you can call 615-758-6522 or [click here](#). Vendor registration deadline is June 12th at 5 pm. ARC will also have a donation truck onsite. For a list of accepted donations, you can [click here](#).

10) MJ Senior Center Indoor Yard Sale: The Mt. Juliet Senior Center will be having their Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, June 15th from 8 am - 1 pm. The Senior Center is located at 2034 NMJRD. The public is invited.

11) June 20th Planning Commission, 6:30 pm:

- **Courtyards at McFarland:** A plan has been submitted for a commercial mixed-use development with age-restricted single-family homes and townhomes with public park space to be located at 5025 Old Lebanon Dirt Road. To see the plan you can [click here](#).
- **Elliott Reserve:** A plan has been submitted for a commercial mixed-use development with townhomes to be located at 12440/12582 Lebanon Road. To see the PMDP you can [click here](#).
- **Waffle House:** Plans for a Waffle House have been submitted to be located at 12085 Lebanon Road. To see the plan, you can [click here](#).

- **Whispering Meadows:** Plans for 22 single-family lots have been submitted to be located on Ritter Drive. To see the PMDP you can [click here](#).
- **Tim Hortons:** A revised Site Plan has been submitted for a Tim Hortons to be located at 10576 Lebanon Road. To see the Site Plan you can [click here](#).
- **Convenience Store:** A revised plan was submitted for a convenience store to be located at 2190 NMJRD. To see the plan you can [click here](#).

12) Wilson County Election Calendar: The next election for this year is August 1st. If you haven't registered to vote, please do so by [clicking here](#) as soon as possible. Registration for this election ends July 2nd.

- **August 1st** (*Federal & State Primary / County General Election*)
-U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress Districts 5 & 6
-State Representatives Districts 40 & 46 & 57
- **Early Voting** begins July 12th and ends July 27th. You can early vote at MJ Community Center in Charlie Daniels Park.

13) Independence Day fireworks:

- On [July 4th](#), there will be the MJ City fireworks show at Circle P Ranch located at 563 E. Main Street. Watch for details, bring the family and come celebrate our independence.
- **MJ City Fireworks Code:** If you are shooting your own fireworks, please remember July 5th is the last day to buy or sell fireworks inside the city limits and they cannot be discharged between the hours of 10 pm and 10 am. To read further details you can [click here](#).

14) Pickleball tournament benefiting Charis Health Center: On Friday (4-10 pm), September 27th and Saturday (7:30 am - 5 pm), September 28th, the 2nd Annual Ellie's MJ Pickleball Classic will be held at Charlie Daniels Park that will benefit Charis Health Center. All skill levels are invited to participate and food trucks will be available as well. Team Rockensock Real Estate Professionals is sponsoring the event. To register for the tournament, you can [click here](#). Charis Health Center is a non-profit that provides quality and compassionate healthcare to the uninsured in MJ as well as Middle Tennessee. The Main Clinic is located at 2620 NMJRD.

UPDATES

1) Mundy Park playground closed: The playground in Mundy Park is closed for construction in preparation for the new playground expansion. Construction will take about six weeks.

2) AAA Rating for MJ: The City of MJ has achieved the prestigious AAA Rating from S&P Global Ratings, marking a significant milestone in the city's financial history. MJ is only the sixth city in Tennessee to earn this rating.

3) Hibbett Hall Train Museum: The Hibbett Hall Train & History Museum, located in the MJ Community Center will be open to

the public on the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month beginning in June from 2-4 pm, and also by appointment. N.C. Hibbett, the town's first mayor in 1973, was an avid train collector where his collection will be on display. The museum's crown jewel is its model train display that will take visitors to the 1910-1940s era of MJ. Bring the family to see how MJ used to look like in the downtown area.

4) MJ Parks Recreation/Aquatic Center (repeat/update): The MJ BOC approved to begin research and development for a rec/aquatic center. The wish list would include a gym with basketball courts (also striped for pickleball), and Olympic-size swimming pool(s). Outside there would be pickleball courts, tennis courts, and volleyball courts. A bond would be capped at **\$14M** that would come from hotel/motel tax with no burden on city taxpayers. **A committee is being formed.** As this progresses, we will have a better idea of what we can actually afford to build.

5) MJ Fiscal Budget Work Session: The MJ BOC held a public work session to discuss the '24/25 fiscal budget. It was sent back to department heads to find more ways to cut spending. The two required readings to pass a budget will be held on Monday, June 10th and Monday, June 24th. The new budget cycle begins July 1st. To see the budget summary presentation, you can [click here](#).

6) Public Work Session on MJ City Ethics Code (repeat/update): The MJ BOC held its third public work session on May 29th with members of the MJ Ethics Commission to further discuss updating the City's Ethics Code.

7) Robinson Park (repeat/update): Robison Park remains closed during sewer line construction. Robinson Park is located behind Dairy Queen off OLDRD. I do not have a timeline.

8) MJPd Guardian Shield/Automated License Plate Recognition readers: (ALPR). **May:** 4 stolen vehicles/plates/wanted persons alerted that lead to 5 arrests/apprehensions. All vehicles were from out of county/state.

9) MJ City sales tax revenues: Revenues from April city sales tax was above average by **3.56%** in over last year. Keep shopping local and you help fund MJPd, FDMJ, road improvements/projects, and much more. Keep it local.

STATUS REPORT: PROJECTS/CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENTS

([Note](#): updated information since last month is in color.)

Three-way stop at Providence Trail/S. Rutland Road: The **construction crew will be adjusting storm structures before continued road work. Paving is expected during June. The current count on Certificates of Occupancy is 77.** The three-way intersection is to be completed prior to the 100th CO. Your continued patience is appreciated. Please use caution around the sidewalks. If you would like to see a rendering with added turn lanes, you can [click here](#).

Providence Pkwy.: The portion of Providence Pkwy., west of Creekside Apartments to Central Pike will be widened to five lanes. There are two developers responsible for the widening of Providence Pkwy. to Central Pike. I do not have a timeline.

Beckwith Road: The consultant is currently working on preliminary design. In addition, they are also evaluating and designing for a quick start project at the four-way intersection to make temporary turn lane improvements. The City has begun ROW acquisition on the quick-start improvements. NEPA studies and planning report are underway. This area of Beckwith Road is between I-40 and south to the four-way intersection at S. Rutland Road/Posey Hill Drive. Currently, all pre-construction phases are being funded by the city and are 10% complete. The City plans to apply for grant funding to cover 80% of the construction costs, when they become available. Construction for the quick-start improvements is targeted for 2025. To see a closeup of the quick start plan, you can [click here](#).

S. Rutland Road Annexation: MJ Public Works has applied for annexation of S. Rutland Road at the city limits to include the full Beckwith Road/Posey Hill four-way intersection. The reason is to take ownership in preparation for the quick-start improvements at and around the intersection.

Beckwith Point: The Beckwith Point project on 75 acres between Belinda Pkwy. and I-40, has pulled land disturbance permits to begin construction and they [have started laying sewer](#). It will consist of three distribution warehouses with a road connecting from Beckwith Rd. to Belinda Pkwy., across from Meadowview Drive. The road will have to be completed prior to occupancy. To review the plan, you can [click here](#).

Beckwith Station: Land disturbance permits have been issued for Beckwith Station. This is for a gas station, office, and eatery on the southwest corner of Beckwith Road and Summit Blvd. across from the ER.

SMJRD widening: The MJ BOC approved the consultant contract to start the design process. TDOT ROW is in the early stage of acquisition, and utility relocation coordination. Field work has begun for survey, with ongoing environmental phase, final design, and engineering. This TDOT project is 80% complete with preconstruction activity. The TDOT ROW acquisition and utility relocation phases will take around three years to complete. TDOT announced in December, this project is 100% funded over their 10-year plan. TDOT construction is estimated to align with the interchange project.

I-40/Central Pike Interchange: TDOT phase is in surveying, environmental, engineering, [and finalizing design](#). Project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity. [ROW acquisition is set to begin in 2026](#). TDOT announced in December, this project is 100% funded over their 10-year plan.

Central Pike widening: This TDOT widening project to 5 lanes extends from SMJRD to Old Hickory Blvd., and currently TDOT has finalized and approved the transportation report. TDOT has

budgeted to begin NEPA and preliminary engineering phases. Phase 1 is between I-40 and SMJRD and is 5% complete with preconstruction activity. A consultant firm was approved by the MJ BOC to begin design for Phase 1. The City funding the engineering/ROW acquisition will likely save many years on the ultimate completion of Phase 1. The Phase 2 TDOT project will be from I-40 to OHB. TDOT announced in December, construction will be 100% funded in their 10-year plan, and they will manage the ROW acquisition. TDOT construction is estimated to align with the interchange project.

Mundy Park: Installation of the new playground expansion has begun construction. Completion is expected to take about six weeks. The playground area will be closed during this time.

Wingwall repairs in Belinda City: TDOT has determined that two wingwalls need repairing within Belinda City. Construction has begun on Belinda Pkwy. and has a lane closure. The second one is on Creekview Drive.

Cedar Creek Greenway Phase 2: Phase 2 will connect Charlie Daniels Park to Lebanon Road, and the grant was approved. Currently, a consultant has been chosen and approved, and is in design. NEPA and preliminary engineering is underway. Project is 5% complete with pre-construction activity. If you would like to see a map, including the Phase 1 connection to Golden Bear Gateway (GBG), you can [click here](#).

Town Center Trail Connector: This greenway extension will run along S. Greenhill Road from W. Wilson Blvd. to Town Center Trail on W. Division. Project is 90% complete with construction activity. This project will be constructed along with the S. Greenhill Road roundabout and completion is expected by [the end of May](#).

Town Center Trail Phase 3: Design for the 3rd Phase of the TCT has begun that will extend from S. Greenhill Road to Mt. Juliet Elementary School. Currently in final design, and NEPA studies are complete. Project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity.

Town Center Trail Phase 4: The City received approval from the Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority (NERA) and RJ Corman for an easement to install a greenway trail in the railroad ROW. This trail will be installed by the Lynwood Station developer from the Train Station east to Clemmons Road. Then, the trail will follow alongside Clemmons Road to the Lynwood Station site. To see a map, you can [click here](#).

Lebanon Road sidewalks Phases 2 & 3:

- Construction has begun and is 90% complete. This includes both sides of Lebanon Road from NMJRD to Park Glen, including a portion of Park Glen. Completion is expected around June '24.
- Phase 3 will be between Nonaville Road and Green Hill High School and is 99% complete with preconstruction activity, and is currently in ROW acquisition phase. NEPA and final design are complete. Construction is expected to start in 2024.

MJRD Phase 2 ADA upgrades: This project will be upgrading ADA requirements on MJRD sidewalks between Weston Drive and OLDRD. It is currently 40% complete with preconstruction activity and in final design. NEPA has been approved by TDOT, and waiting for them to obligate funds for final design.

Woodridge Place sidewalks: Construction of the Ph2 sidewalks on Woodridge Place connecting to GBG will begin this summer. Completion should be by the end of the year.

Signal improvements Phases 2 & 3:

- Traffic signals along MJRD between Central Pike and Division will be undergoing improvements in Phase 2. Waiting for RJ Corman to approve agreement to cross the railroad, and for construction fund obligation from TDOT/FHWA. Phase 2 is estimated to begin construction this spring with a fall 2025 completion. Project includes installing fiber optic communication between each of the 13 signals (Central Pike to Division) that will connect to City Hall. The project is 100% complete with preconstruction activity, and will take about 18 months to complete.
- Phase 3 is in final design, which will extend from Curd Road to Lebanon Road, covering six signals. This project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity, and in final design. NEPA was approved. Phase 3 is estimated to begin construction in fall 2025.

Traffic signal at NMJRD and Curd Road: In March, the BOC approved moving a signal from E. Hill Street to Curd Road and NMJRD, that will include with a small amount of widening. After months requesting approval for the Post Office to add a back exit onto Curd Road, the Post Office decided to not approve it.

Traffic signal on GBG and Volunteer Blvd.: This grant-funded project was approved by TDOT. Bid has been accepted and approved, with construction to follow in a few months, due to long lead times on signal components.

Traffic signal at E. Division/GBG: Installation for this (Amazon contribution) signal is currently in the construction phase at 30% completion. The contractor is waiting on signal equipment, but installing signal pole foundations and conduit.

Traffic signal at W. Division/S. Greenhill Road: Signal is being upgraded to steel poles and mast arms with signal equipment and railroad safety components. Project is 5% complete. A contractor was selected who is in the process of ordering signal components and equipment. Estimated completion is between the end of 2024 and early Spring 2025.

GBG/Beckwith Road Interchange Lighting: Contract between MJ City/TDOT to improve lighting at the interchange was finalized and TDOT has begun design. Project is 5% complete with preconstruction activity.

S. Greenhill Road roundabout: The project is finishing up the last phase of the traffic control plan. Construction is nearing completion. The signal at S. Greenhill/W. Division are undergoing

improvements as well. It will include steel poles, mast arms, and upgrading the signal equipment, along with railroad safety components. If you would like to see a map of the final layout, you can [click here](#).

Old Lebanon Dirt Road widening: Currently in process of appraisals for ROW acquisition and utility coordination. The City's sewer consultant is currently preparing design and drainage plans. Project is 90% complete with preconstruction activity. The City has closed on 75% of the tracts. Estimated construction is **fall 2025**, depending on utility relocation, and **take about two years to complete**.

Lebanon Road widening (Park Glen to GBG): Project is 50% complete with preconstruction activity, waiting for TDOT to fund the ROW phase. The City has applied for the Statewide Partnership Program and allocated \$3 million toward the ROW Phase to get TDOT to fund the remaining cost for ROW. Total cost for ROW is estimated around \$15 million. In the TDOT announcement in December, this project was not included in their funding plan. We do not know, or understand the reasons.

Pleasant Grove Road widening and realignment: The widening will be a 4-lane median divided roadway from Old Pleasant Grove Road to Central Pike with multi-use paths on each side. Project is 10% complete with preconstruction activity, and performing preliminary design and NEPA phases. A new consultant has been approved and hired. The ROW design is estimated to be complete by July 2025. To see a map, you can [find it here](#).

Golden Bear Gateway widening (Eastern Connector Phase 2): The widening on GBG between the Cedar Creek bridge and Palermo/Curd Road is 80% complete with preconstruction activity. Utility relocation and ROW acquisition have begun. Construction is estimated to begin during 2026.

E. Division Street widening: The consultant, along with performing environmental technical studies, has collected the survey data and traffic data, and is currently developing the planning report for the whole corridor, which determines what the roadway typical section needs to be based on future traffic projections. In addition, they are currently designing a quick start project at the intersection of NMJRD and E. Division Street, which includes turn lane improvements. The project is 10% complete with preconstruction activity, and will include a 4-lane median divided roadway with multi-use paths on each side, from NMJRD to just east of GBG.

Western Connector: The BOC Resolution deciding where the connection will begin and end has been deferred indefinitely. Project is 10% complete with preconstruction activity.

Sunset Drive widening: This project is 75% with preconstruction activity, and working with utilities on relocation. Design is complete.

Sewer upgrade projects: There are/will be maintenance and upgrade projects being performed on sewer lines around the city.

- Belinda City lateral lining project. They are working in different areas off of Belinda Pkwy. and project is 75% complete with construction.
- Stoner Creek Interceptor Upsizing project has an [expected August/September completion](#). It is preparing to cross Old Lebanon Dirt Road (OLDRD).
- Timber Trail Pump Station Rehab project is 10% complete with construction. Once contractor receives materials, construction will begin.
- Old Lebanon Dirt Road (OLDRD) West Pocket Plan project is 100% complete with preconstruction activity, which will install sewer along OLDRD and Page Drive. Design phase is complete and ROW acquisition is being finalized. Construction will coincide with the widening project.
- John Wright Pocket Plan project is under construction.
- EQ Basin on OLDRD will be the biggest sewer project the city has seen since the late 70s/early 80s. Currently, this project is in the design phase which should wrap up sometime during 2024, followed by construction bidding the end of 24/25 fiscal year.
- [City-wide sewer manhole rehabilitation is underway and ongoing.](#)

Project note: To save you the time and effort, I provide a list of various updates for your convenience. The information listed is reflected on the city website and is updated each month, as referenced here [Capital Projects Selector](#) and [Development Tracker](#).

MJ BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The two MJ BOC meetings in June will be on Monday, June 10th and Monday, June 24th at 6:30 pm at MJ City Hall.

NOTE: The public is welcome to come and speak and/or submit comments/questions to Sheila Luckett until 4 pm prior to the meeting at sluckett@mtjuliet-tn.gov. The meeting is also aired live on MJTV (Comcast channel 3 or TDS channel 6) and on the City's website, as well as YouTube. It is too early for the agenda, therefore look for notices prior to each BOC meeting.

If you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, comments, complaints, or just something to share, please let me know. If you would like to sign up for my monthly email newsletters, you will find the option to do so on my website. It is an honor serving you and being your citizen advocate.

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